[4th November 1933

(e) what orders have been passed by the Government on that reference;

(f) whether a copy of it will be placed on the table; and

(g) if no orders have been passed, what the reasons therefor are?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) 13th August 1933.

(c) 30th August 1933.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) & (f) No orders were issued to the Vice-President.

(g) Before Government could pass orders, the Vice-President in charge reported that in response to a requisition received from 12 members he had fixed the 25th September 1933 for the election of President and issued notice to all the members.

Pendency of elections to Panchayat Boards in the Presidency.

* 347 Q.—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) in what districts elections to panchayats have yet to take place;

(b) the number of panchayats districtwar in which elections are not over; and

(c) what the reasons are for such longer delay?

A.—(a) & (b) Elections to panchayats originally constituted under the Madras Village Panchayat Act, 1920, are not yet over in the following districts:—

Name of district.	Number of panchayats for which elections have not yet been held.
Arcot, North	6
Bellary	5
Chingleput	10
Chittoor	6
Coimbatore	26
Godavari, East	2
Godavari, West	9
Guntur	8
Kanara, South	1
Kistna	6
Salem	30
Tanjore	8
Trichinopoly	4
Tinnevelly	4
Total ..	125

(c) The main reasons are—

(i) the failure of some Election Officers to conduct the elections and the consequent necessity to appoint other persons as Election Officers after ascertaining that the elections have not been held;

(ii) opposition of some parties in the villages to conduct the election at the appointed time; and

(iii) want of suitable persons for appointment as Election Officers.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"May I know why the Government have not appointed Government officers to finish these elections as early as possible?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"In most cases, it was not possible to indent on the service of officers of the Revenue Department. Now that a service of panchayat officers has been constituted, I hope the elections will be completed very early."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"May I ask whether for the last one year Government officers were lent to the district and taluk boards to finish their elections?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"They were lent, Sir, but the Revenue authorities do not consider it a legitimate work of the Revenue Department."

Grants to local bodies for the maintenance of roads.

* 348 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what principles govern the granting of the Government grant to the maintenance of (1) the trunk roads and (2) the second-class roads;

(b) what grants do each of the district boards receive under each head and the length of the trunk and the second-class roads maintained by them;

(c) when were these grants last fixed; and

(d) whether any representation has been made by the district boards for increasing their grants?

A.—(a) Grants for the maintenance of trunk and second-class roads are given in accordance with the following principles:—

Trunk roads.—In order to ensure a uniform standard of maintenance of trunk roads and to assist local bodies in maintaining these roads in proper condition, the Government have undertaken to make good the expenditure incurred by local bodies on their maintenance, subject to certain prescribed maxima. Local bodies are expected to spend as much as possible from their own funds in addition to the Government contribution. If any road is not maintained efficiently in any year, the grant for that year is liable to be withheld in whole or in part.